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**SECTION 1**

**OVERVIEW:**

I thoroughly enjoyed this assignment because I was able to reflect on language skills and the use of language while having fun simultaneously. While I was completing this assignment I observed how important word choice is to a piece. Whether it was writing poetry, text message, or a prose selection, word choice was important in order to convey a message. In each assignment I was limited to how many words I could include to make my case. I am not a strong writer and often I tend to feel overwhelmed that I do not have enough thoughts to include in my writing. With these assignments I felt the limit of words or paragraphs was overwhelming because this time I had more to say. Therefore, I was forced to take out words, phrases, or sentences that were insignificant. I was also forced to determine how to minimize my word amount and use more specific words while conveying meaning.

The assignment for the spider or the fly was interesting. I have never thought about comparing language to a spider or a fly. This was a reflective piece and required me to examine my views of language with a figurative point of view. The hardest piece for me to write was the assignment about *The Sick Rose*. I am very intimidated when it comes to writing poetry. I do not have the gift to be creative, rhyme, or produce figurative language. I found myself evaluating each word in the poem and trying to determine a way to replace each word in order for it to be applicable to gum. I found it was very difficult to create a poem and only use *The Sick Rose* as a guide. The assignment about Humpty Dumpty was the most engaging assignment. I may have completely missed the mark on the assignment but it allowed me to reflect on the way words can be construed in order to create a whole new meaning which differs from the speaker’s intention.

I enjoyed having limits. It required me to think outside of the box and to step out of my comfort zone. This assignment is definitely one that can be modified in used in the classroom. It takes a high level of rigor to complete and each task is somehow relevant and can be applied to everyday life.

**SECTION 2**

**PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY #1: Because the Form of Words Matter**

* PART A:

Gum is something that is sticky. It is meant to be chewed and kept only in your mouth. Gum comes in many different flavors which can be sweet, sour, or spicy.

* PART B:

*The Sticky Gum*

O chewing gum, thou art yummy!

The delicious gum

That comes in different flavors

In the grocery store

Has found thy way in my mouth

A burst of strawberry

In the form of a bubble

That is destroyed.

* PART C:

The poetry was written in a way to convey the same meaning as the prose. I personally feel that writing poetry is a personal weakness for me therefore; the prose is a stronger, more effective piece. The prose piece came natural and was easier to write. Poetry is hard for me to write and it took longer to create it. Throughout the writing process I was worried that my poetry piece would not meet expectations.

The poetry is definitely more interesting and would catch a reader’s attention. The poetry version is interesting for several reasons. It contains fewer words to convey the description of gum yet the words are more precise. The poetry conveys the same meaning as the prose however; the prose offers more information to the reader. The prose states the gum is meant to be chewed and kept only in the mouth. It also adds that it is sticky and comes in many different flavors. The poem *The Sticky Gum* alludes to these facts but does not state all of the facts that the prose does.

**SECTION 3**

**PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY #2: Language Awareness**

If I was to compare language to a web I would be the fly caught in the spider’s web. I see the spider as a master of some sorts while the fly is a victim caught in a web. Language has a purpose just as the web has a purpose and at times it is difficult for the fly to understand the purpose of the web. In my opinion the web represents confusion. Understanding language is a difficult and daunting task for me and many other individuals. At times there are things about language that I do not understand, like the fly and the web. A web is a masterpiece with many intricate details just as language is a masterpiece and takes a master to understand. Language has many variations and details that are essential for use.

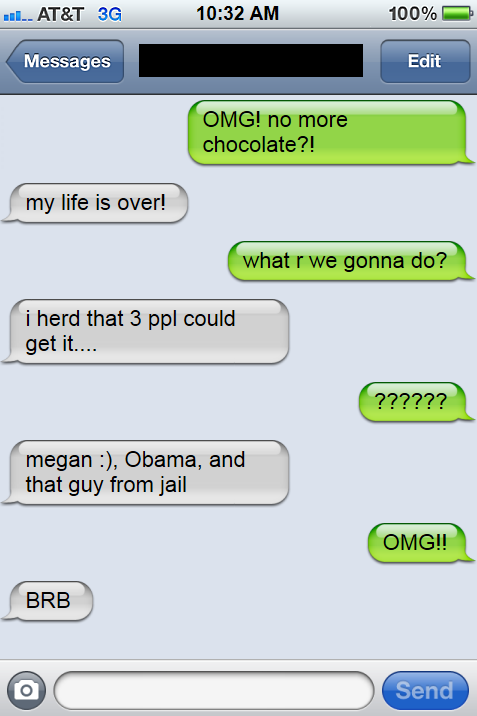
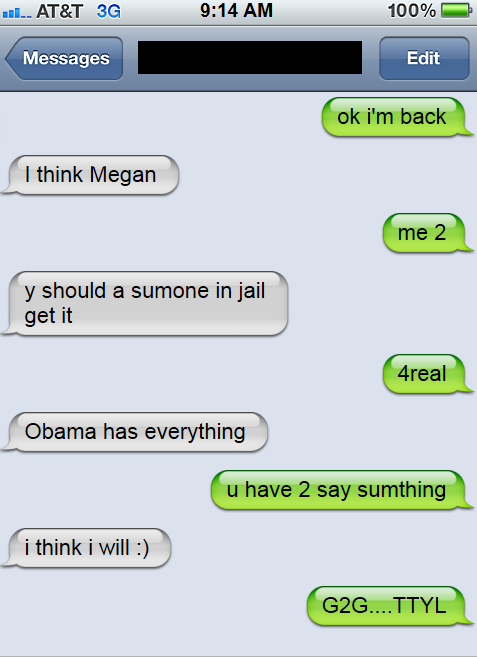
**SECTION 4**

**PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY #4: Argument and Form: The Last Piece of Chocolate**

* PART A:

I believe that my friend should have the opportunity to eat the only piece of chocolate left in this country. She would savor the flavor and be very appreciative of the chocolate. The president has the power to obtain any desire that he wants. He has the power to have chocolate imported into this country from another location or use his fleet of aircrafts to fly to another country to get chocolate. The prisoner is being punished for an illegal act and should not have the luxury of eating chocolate because prisoners have privileges taken away from them.

* PART B:



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* PART C:

The prose selection is more formal while the text message is written in a much less formal language. When writing a prose piece it is essential that the writer correctly spell words and tend to the correct grammar. While writing text messages it is customary, and accepted practice that words can be misspelled and grammar be incorrect.

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It is difficult to state a valid argument in 100 words or less however, the prose selection offers more information than the text message. Text messaging is meant to discuss the issue at hand as briefly as possible and was easier to use fewer words to convey the message. Both selections are short pieces however, the prose piece does offer more details to the reader and defends the reasoning behind who should or should not receive the last piece of chocolate.

The text message is more entertaining because of the lingo that is used. When writing text messages, abbreviations are accepted and commonly used. Examples that were used in the text message include “G2G” for “got to go” or “TTYL” for “talk to you later”. These abbreviations are common in text messaging. The spelling used in the text message also makes it more interesting and entertaining. It is comical to see individuals who can spell words correctly in practical or education occurrences but with text messaging they either chooses not to spell correctly or do not reread what they wrote. Smiley faces are also used to emphasize feeling.

**SECTION 5**

**PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY #5: Audience**

I found this quote rather interesting and profound. At first I had trouble understanding what Humpty Dumpty was saying.

In the phrase, “When I use a word it means just what I chose it to mean – neither more nor less.” I felt that Humpty Dumpty was trying to say that individuals need to stop analyzing every little word that comes out of his mouth. I feel that this is similar to the way the media attempts to dissect every word that is spoken by an influential member. No one, except that individual, truly knows the intention of what was spoken. The speaker owns the words that are spoken and only he has control at that point. Humpty Dumpty in this situation had the power and wanted to emphasize that power and make others around him see that he is in control. The media can speculate and make assumptions which in turn influences the way the public views that individual.

A lesson I took from reading this quote is it is not my responsibility to read into what people are saying, especially in tough conversations. If we begin to do this then it becomes dangerous because it opens up room for error. As humans we should know when we should take what people say at face value and know when things should be left alone.